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Military Developments 12 Nov 75 TCS 3932/75

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TCS 3932/75
November 12, 1975

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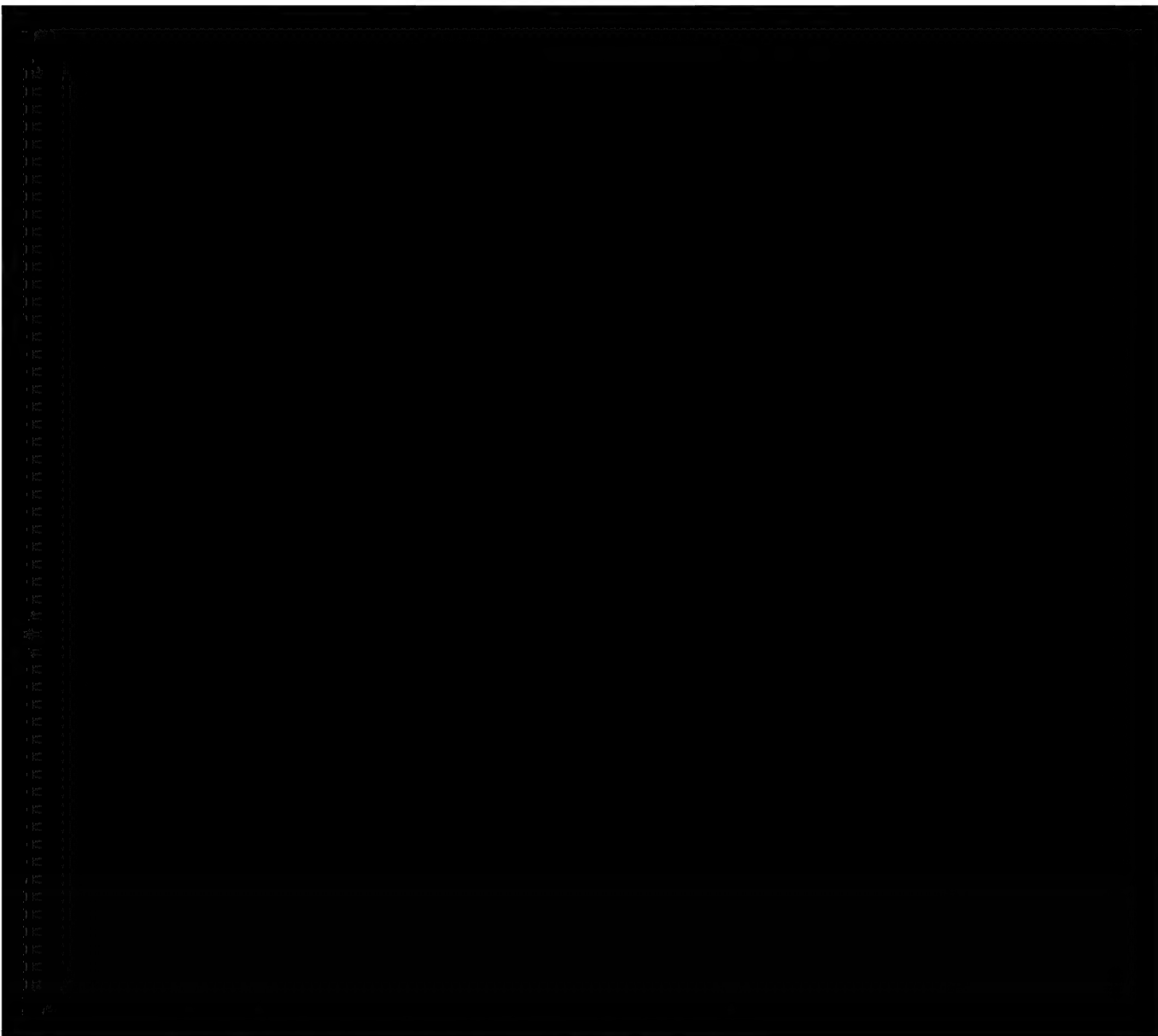
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INDIA: Developments in Space Program

India is continuing to work on the development of its satellite launch vehicle, the SLV-3. According to an

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Indian radio report in early August, two sounding rockets--the Rohini 300 and 560--were successfully tested at the Sriharkota Rocket Launching Station. India intends to use these rockets to collect engineering data for the development of its first domestically built satellite booster. The announcement of the test comes nearly one year after New Delhi successfully conducted a static firing of the SLV-3's second stage proof motor, the largest produced to date by India.

The Rohini-300 has been used by Indian space scientists to test rocket propellants. This rocket reportedly can lift a 111 pound payload to an altitude of nearly 58 miles. According to the radio report, Indian space engineers are planning to upgrade the rocket to enable it to attain altitudes of between 93 and 124 miles. The Rohini 560, which has been used to test the SLV-3's inertial guidance components, can lift a 200 pound payload to an altitude of nearly 228 miles.

The SLV-3 is a four stage, solid propellant launch vehicle, similar to the original version of the US Scout. It is 75 feet long, weighs about 38,000 pounds, and is designed to place an 88 pound satellite into a 250-nm circular orbit.

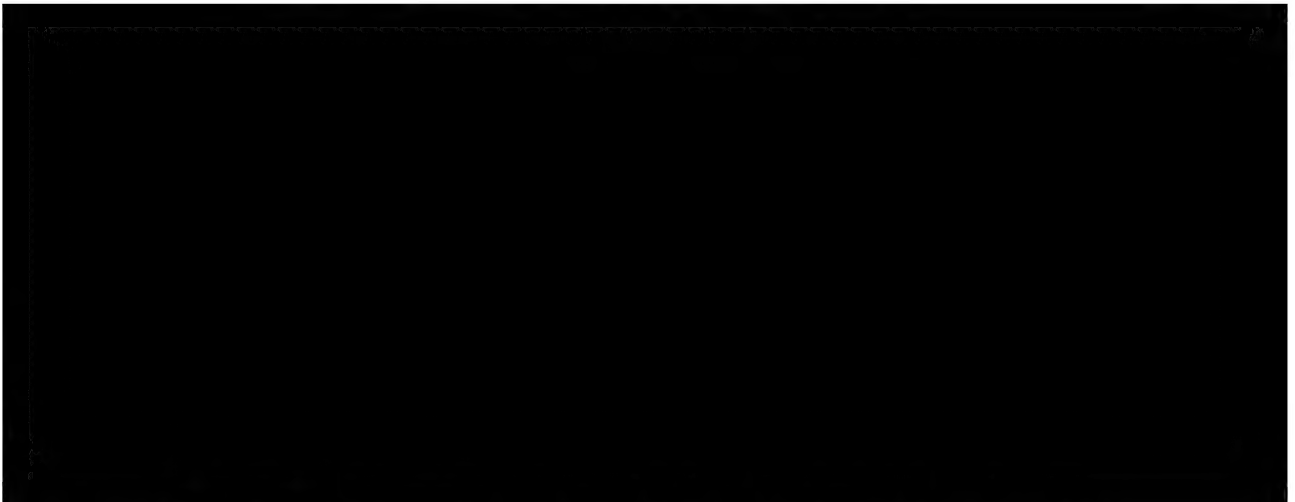
India's satellite launch vehicle program grew out of the international sounding rocket program established at the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Station in 1965. New Delhi decided later to use the facility as a research center for the development of a satellite launch vehicle. Indian space scientists had hoped to have the booster ready for launching the first Indian-built scientific satellite in 1974, but technical problems in the development of rocket propellants and inertial guidance components delayed the program. India, turning to the Soviet Union for assistance, finally launched its first satellite last April.

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If India decides to develop a ballistic missile capability, the third stage of the SLV-3 would need a larger motor. The first three stages of the satellite launch vehicle could then be converted to a missile that would be capable of delivering a 1,000 pound reentry vehicle to a range of about 1,200 nm.



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CHINA: Navy to Show the Flag?

[REDACTED] China was about to send three destroyers into the Indian Ocean to make a port call in Pakistan. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] an out-of-area movement by naval units some time before the end of the decade would not be surprising given the steady growth of the fleet.

The Indian Ocean is already familiar to the Chinese international merchant fleet. For some years, merchant ships have been making port calls in the area or transiting the Indian Ocean en route to ports in Africa or West Europe. Chinese merchant ships recently acquired the right to dock at Singapore--a port they previously could use only as an anchorage. The use of naval ships would be a logical follow-on to the merchant ships in any effort to show the flag in the area and demonstrate the growing stature of the Chinese navy.

Luta class guided missile destroyers, the newest and most impressive ships in China's navy are the most likely candidates for an Indian Ocean port call, but they are not fully outfitted. Except for the lead unit, each is lacking some items of armament or equipment, and these deficiencies will probably take several years to correct. China has other large guided missile ships that could be used--the Gordiy class destroyer and the Riga class destroyer escort--but they are old and are of Soviet rather than Chinese design.

Logistic arrangements may be required en route. The use of intermediate ports appears out of the question at this time, since China can probably count only on Pakistan, Cambodia, and possibly Thailand to grant clearance. An

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alternative would be to use a merchant ship or naval auxiliary to provide the necessary support from a protected anchorage. [REDACTED]

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